GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3838
ANSWERED ON:22.08.2005
ARTIFICIAL RIPENING OF FRUITS
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that fruit growers in the country are using calcium carbide powder for ripening fruits artificially before the scheduled time;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) its adverse impact on the health of human beings;

(d) whether the fruits exported from India are being sent back from foreign countries as a result thereof;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a) to (c): The Government is aware that the use of calcium carbide powder and gas for artificial ripening of the fruits is harmful to health causing damage to skin and several ailments.

(d) & (e): No report has been received on rejection of Indian fruits on account of use of calcium carbide.

(f): As per the Presentation of Food Adulteration Act, 1960, sale of artificially ripened fruits by using calcium carbide is prohibited. Enforcement of the Act is ensured by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.